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12 September 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Information Technology

FROM:

Chief, Policy and Coordination Staff

SUBJECT: Limits on Ability of Current Computer Systems to Handle
DO Intelligence Cable Processing and Dissemination

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum, Dated 17 August 1988, Same Subject

1. It is not my intention to engage in a fruitless paper exchange with your office; however, the language of your memorandum of 17 August 1988 illustrates precisely the reason we wanted the Executive Director and the Agency's Information Systems Board to know the limitations of the computer application you designed and control and how they seriously impact on our ability to process lengthy intelligence reports from the field.

2. We want to work with you to ensure that you help us solve the problems connected to the receipt and dissemination of our intelligence cables without unnecessary loss of time, particularly actionable information required by our consumers. In addition to the system's inability to process longer intelligence reports, we have kept careful records of the failures of the current system, particularly when we have been unable to transmit FLASH and IMMEDIATE precedence reporting on a timely basis regardless of the length of the message.

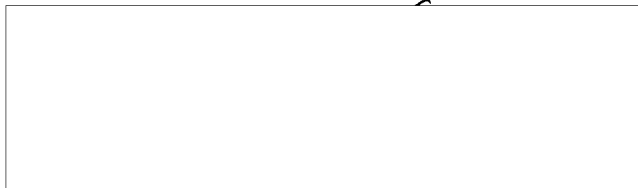
3. We applaud your efforts to increase the Electronic Cable Originator Handler (ECOH) capacity to 8000 lines but, even in its most favorable light, to stop the system from processing any other traffic for almost an hour while one message is being processed is unacceptable. We are equally concerned that this one system, used for critical intelligence information, will be used at the same time for the origination and release of other Directorate traffic. We are prepared to consider, as a temporary solution, the sectioning of the processing longer reports. We hasten to remind you that, unless you are able to remedy the distribution problems and give us near one hundred percent assurance that the sectioned reports will all reach their intended destination, the fix will not work.

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4. We are dealing here with the DO's primary purpose for its existence, which is the collection and dissemination of its intelligence information product. Every effort should be made to avoid any unnecessary delays in the timely dissemination of this product. PCS, IMS and OIT personnel must meet and review again the current system and make recommendations for the necessary changes required. I am asking [redacted] to contact your focal point, [redacted] to arrange further discussions.

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CC: O/EXDIR
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C/DO/IMS

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